



HR0890

LRB096 18729 GRL 34114 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Ships of all types sail through the waters in and  
3 around our nation every day; and

4 WHEREAS, These vessels, which are owned by U.S. companies  
5 and are registered and operated under the American flag, make  
6 up the United States Merchant Marine; and

7 WHEREAS, In accordance with the Merchant Marine Act of  
8 1936, merchant marines are considered military personnel  
9 during war time; and

10 WHEREAS, During war or national emergency, the Merchant  
11 Marine is responsible for delivering military supplies to our  
12 armed forces and allies overseas; and

13 WHEREAS, The role of non-uniformed merchant sailors in  
14 World War II was one of the most dangerous and important of the  
15 war; and

16 WHEREAS, Defenseless or lightly armed private merchant  
17 ships, facing the same dangers as Navy personnel sailing  
18 hostile waters, carried supplies to our soldiers fighting  
19 overseas; and

1           WHEREAS, Hundreds of ships and thousands of men were lost  
2 to enemy submarines and aircraft during World War II; and

3           WHEREAS, There is currently a bill pending in Congress that  
4 would allow the merchant marines of World War II to receive  
5 benefits for their service; and

6           WHEREAS, The merchant marines served loyally in times of  
7 great danger in defense of their country; it is only fitting  
8 and proper that these brave men be given their just reward;  
9 therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
12 urge the federal government to adopt legislation allowing  
13 merchant marines who served during World War II to receive  
14 benefits for their service; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
16 presented to the members of the Illinois congressional  
17 delegation.